

Native Game Trading in the 1830s.—In the *Sydney Monitor* newspaper of January 24, 1835, page 5, column 2, the editor [Edward Smith Hall] reviewed some 1834 accounts of the Colonies of Swan River and King George's Sound. Though neither scientific nor ornithological, his references to birds may be worth reproducing here, since notes on Western Australian birds from the 1830s are few and scattered. The number of shillings for the price of ducks was left a blank in the *Monitor*.

"To shew the dearth and scarcity of food we find that black swans when dead, sell for eight shillings each [in the Colony of Swan River—G.P.W.].

"We do not think swans were ever sold in this Colony [i.e. New South Wales—G.P.W.] as an article of food. We remember killing one at Lake Bathurst, and afterwards hanging it up two days, roasting it, and eating it with native currant jelly; but we did not like it. The flesh has a peculiar flavour, and is very dark and coarse."

And, farther down in the article:

"The following is the list of market prices on the 29th November, 1834 . . .

"Retail . . . Eggs, per dozen, 2s. 6d. Fowls, each 3s. Wild Fowl—pigeon 9d., duck s., teal 1s., swans 6s. and 8s."

—G. P. WHITLEY, The Australian Museum, Sydney.

Additional Note on the Occurrence of the Red-browed Finch.—Further to Mr. John Dell's excellent paper, "The Red-browed Finch, *Aegintha temporalis*, in Western Australia" (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 9 (7), 1965: 160) I have to record the following observations.

A solitary bird of this species was seen in the vicinity of my home in Jungle Gully, Bickley, about five years ago. It fed from bird-seed which was left out for it, but after two or three days it disappeared. Soon after, a single bird was reported from a house about half a mile away. Again the bird fed from proffered seed, and after a few days it, too, left the area. It was thought at the time that these were escaped cage birds, and that they had fallen prey to predatory eats.

The presence of the finches in numbers was first suspected in May 1964, when call notes similar to those of the Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) were heard in the orchard. My mother, Mrs. W. H. Loaring, was with me at the time, and she identified the calls as those of a finch. We investigated, but the birds had flown into the thickets along the creek and it was not possible to follow them up. In August 1964 a pair of birds, thought to be Red-browed Finches were seen in a clump of *Jacksonia* sp. in a swamp area about 100 yards from the house. About a week later a party of the finches entered the garden adjacent to the house. They were quite noisy, and I was able to identify them and counted twelve birds before the flock moved off into the scrub.

In October 1964, I found a nest in a *Mirbelia dilatata* shrub, close to the creek bank. It was rather untidy in construction and was lined with fowl feathers. About five feet from the ground, it was deserted, but an accumulation of droppings indicated a successful hatching. I was puzzled by the nest, as it did not resemble any of the known local species, but my father, Mr. W. H. Loaring, suggested that it may have belonged to one of the finches.